

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) A method for flexible multicast of multicast data to a multicast group within a telecommunication system, wherein the multicast data is provided by a broadcast/multicast server and transferred by means of channels to the users registered to the multicast group, said A method comprising the steps of:

providing multi-channel multicast groups, wherein each multi-channel multicast group is configured and uniquely identified by means of a first identifier;

offering, for each multi-channel multicast group, at least one channel, wherein a channel is uniquely identified by means of a second identifier;

providing an announcement multicast group for informing about availability and configuration of the multi-channel multicast groups;

wherein the announcement multicast group is announced to the user and the user can join the announcement multicast group in order to be informed regularly about the available multi channel multicast group, wherein the first identifier is used to join the user to the multi channel multicast group and to hop between multi channel multicast groups, wherein the hopping is performed by means of a join-and-leave transaction to or from a multi channel multicast group; and,

wherein the second identifier is used for zapping between the channels.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the configuration of the multi channel multicast group is performed by means of parameters defining different transmission quality, location dependent information, coding A method, price, protection key, reliability, expected jitter or restricted to certain subscriptions.

21. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein joining and leaving to and from the multi channel multicast group is user-driven and the user takes the decision to hop between the multi channel multicast groups.

22. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein joining and leaving to and from the multi channel multicast group is server driven with a mechanism controlled by the server.

23. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the first identifier is a multicast address of a multi channel multicast group.

24. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the second identifier depends on used access network.

25. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the second identifier is the access bearer or an identifier identifying the multicast data flow transported on one access bearer or a combination of both.

26. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein some further parameters describing a channel are sent by means of the announcement multicast group (A) or are included in each multi-channel multicast group.

27. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the announcement multicast group A is sent regularly, in certain intervals or continuously.

28. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein a list of multi-channels groups not yet established but for which users have already shown interest is multicasted to the users by means of the announcement multicast group A.

29. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein a new multi channel multicast group is established and announced to the users.

30. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the new multi channel multicast group is established if a certain threshold level of users interest is reached.

31. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the multi channel multicast group is dissolved when the last user leaves said group.

32. (New) A system adapted to perform a flexible multicast of multicast data to a multicast group within a telecommunication system. wherein the multicast data is provided by a broadcast/multicast server and transferred by means of channels to the users having terminals registered to the multicast group, said system comprising:

means for providing multi-channel multicast groups, wherein each multi-channel multicast group is configured and uniquely identified by means of a first identifier;

means for offering, for each multi-channel multicast group, at least one channel wherein a channel is uniquely identified by means of a second identifier;

means for providing an announcement multicast group for informing about availability and configuration of the multi-channel multicast groups;

means for announcement of the announcement multicast group to the users in order to be informed regularly about the available multi channel multicast group;

means for joining the user to the announcement multicast group;

means for joining the user to the multi channel multicast group using the first identifier and means for hopping between multi channel multicast groups by means of a join-and-leave transaction to or from a multi channel multicast group; and,

means for zapping the user between the channels using the second identifier.

33. (New) The system according to claim 32, wherein the system forces to user to change the group and/or to zap between the channels.

34. (New) A receiver adapted to perform a flexible multicast of multicast data to a multicast group within a telecommunication system wherein the

multicast data is provided by a broadcast/multicast server and transferred by means of channels to the users registered to the multicast group, wherein:

multi-channel multicast groups are provided, wherein each multi-channel multicast group is configured and uniquely identified by means of a first identifier;

each multi-channel multicast group offers at least one channel wherein a channel is uniquely identified by means of a second identifier; and,

an announcement multicast group is provided for informing about availability and configuration of the multi-channel multicast groups;

said receiver comprising:

means for receiving the announcement multicast group;

means for joining the user to the announcement multicast group in order to be informed regularly about the available multi channel multicast group;

means for joining the user to the multi channel multicast group using the first identifier;

means for hopping between multi channel multicast groups by means of a join-and-leave transaction to or from a multi channel multicast group; and,

means for zapping between the channels using the second identifier.

35. (New) The receiver according to claim 34, wherein receiver has means for tuning the receiving data wherein the second identifier is used to select the appropriate bearer on which the channel is being transmitted in order to switch between access bearers.

36. (New) The receiver according to claim 34, wherein receiver has means for de-multiplexing the channels according to the second identifier, which identifies the multicast data flow transported on one access bearer.